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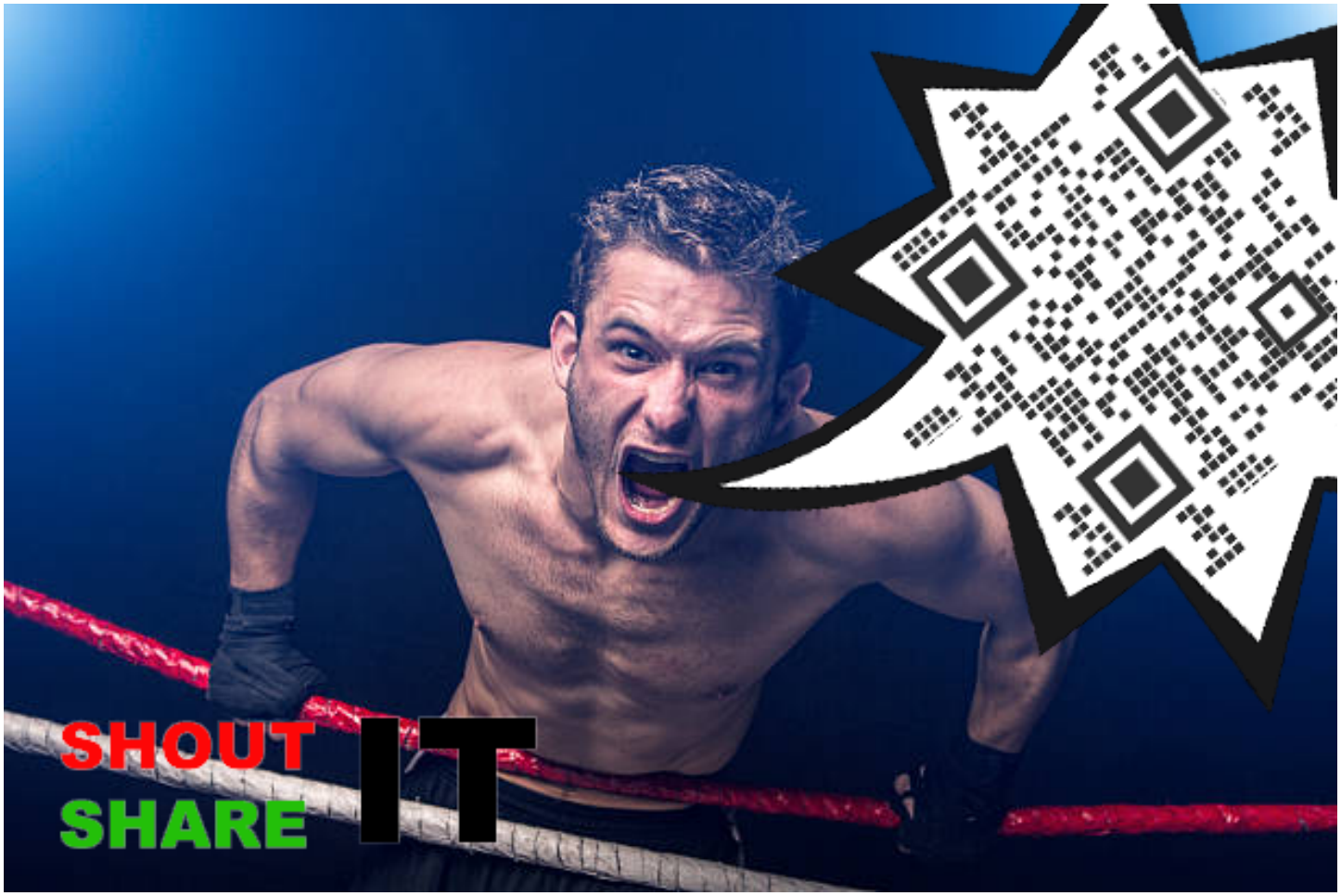
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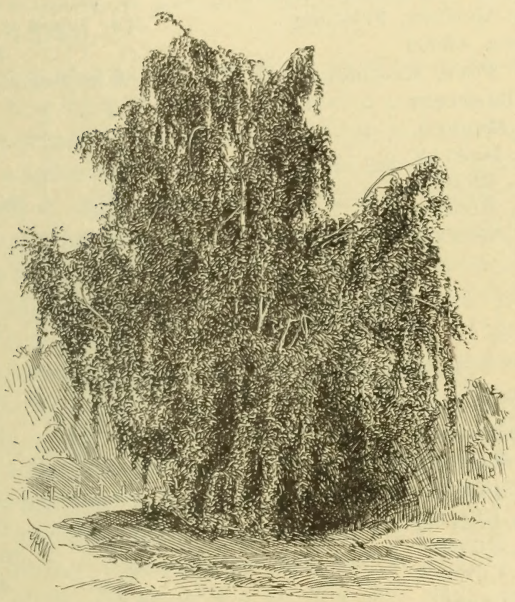
ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR MAINE.



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SOME ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR MAINE.

W. M. Munson.

The ornamentation of rural homes is of the highest importance to the people of Maine, not only as a means of adding to the comfort and pleasure of the home life, but as an attraction for the increasing numbers of summer visitors and as a means of enhancing the value of farm property.

Concerning methods of planting and culture of trees and shrubs, but little need be said at this time. Some notes have been published by the Experiment Station (See bulletin 42, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station), and will be sent to any one on application.

In general it may be said that to get satisfactory results, shrubs and other flowering plants should receive as good treatment as corn and potatoes. When once established, shrubs and perennial herbs require much less care than do annuals, but during the first year or so, careful attention will be well repaid.

In determining what to plant, several points must be considered: First of all, the plant must be hardy. Some of the finest shrubs of Massachusetts and New York are utterly unsuited for the climate of Maine. For this reason the use of native plants is to be recommended so far as possible, and few exotics are superior to the common viburnums, dogwoods, elders, sumachs and laurels. Other points to be considered are: season, habit, beauty of foliage, flower and fruit. If possible, such a selection should be made as will afford a succession of bloom or other attractive qualities through the season. For instance, among flowering shrubs, the earlier spiræas, may be followed by double flowering plum, Tartarian honeysuckle, and Japan quince, these in turn by lilacs, weigela, and later by roses, mock orange and hydrangea. To this list may be added the common high bush cranberry and the dwarf Juneberry or shadbush from the pasture.

For beauty of foliage, the Golden Elder and the Golden Syringa are unsurpassed. Purple Berberry, (*Spiræa Thunbergii,*) and the common Staghorn Sumach are also to be recommended. The last is specially valuable for its rich coloring in

the fall. For the best effects it should be planted in masses, on rich soil, and cut to the ground each year. It will then grow up six to eight feet each season, and give a rich tropical effect. Other native plants which may be mentioned in this connection, are the Thimble Berry (*Rubus odoratus*), valuable alike for flower and foliage; Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*), with its large, rich, green leaves; Dogwood or red osier (*Cornus stolonifera*), which is specially valuable in winter for the contrast afforded by the bright red shoots.

Of shrubs valuable for their fruit, we may name Tartarian Honeysuckle, the Strawberry bush (*Euonymus*), *Rosa rugosa,* Snowberry (*Symphoricarpus*), High-bush cranberry (*Viburnum opulus*), Black Alder or Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*). The last two may be obtained from the woods and swamps in many sections of the State.

SOME OF THE BEST TREES.

The trees named below have been growing on the University campus for several years and have proved reliable in this section of the State.

The Elm: Several species of elms are found in New England but the most valuable for ornamental purposes is the native white or American elm, (*Ulmus Americana,*) which has justly been called "Queen of American Trees." A somewhat moist location is best suited for this species, which, where uninjured, grows very rapidly and is of most attractive form and habit. The English Elm (*Ulmus campestris*), is somewhat larger than the American species and is of very different habit—in this respect resembling the oaks. The leaves are smaller, more regularly cut, and darker; the bark is also darker colored. The Scotch or Wych Elm (*Ulmus montana*), is one of the most valuable of the foreign species, but it is little known in this country. There are on the Campus some interesting hybrids between this and the American species.

The Maple: The maples are among the most valuable and popular of trees for ornamental planting. The Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) is too well known to require description. It is most at home, and grows most rapidly, on gravelly soil. The White or Silver Maple (*Acer dasycarpum*) is not quite as early

in leaf as the sugar maple, nor is the general appearance so pleasing. It is, however, of very rapid growth and will thrive in a variety of soils. A variety of this species, Wier's Cut Leaved Weeping Maple, is also valuable. The Red or Scarlet Maple (*Acer rubrum*) is not so widely planted as its merits deserve. Like the silver maple, it grows naturally on low wet ground, but it will thrive in any soil or situation. Its bright red buds in spring and its scarlet foliage in fall, combine to make it specially desirable. All of the maples named, except Wier's, are to be found growing wild in the forests throughout the State.

The Beech: Although of very different style, the beech (*Fagus ferruginea*) ranks with the elm as a hardy and attractive ornamental tree. Its roots grow near the surface and it will thrive in rocky soil.

The Chestnut: The native chestnut (*Castanea Americana*), one of the glories of the rocky hill-sides of Southern New England, is perfectly hardy in Maine and is well worthy of attention. It is particularly adapted to rocky situations or loose gravelly soils. The Horse Chestnut (*Æsculus Hippocastanum*) is hardy and grows rapidly. It is valuable for planting by the roadside.

The Linden: The American Linden or Basswood, (*Tilia Americana*), is valuable for use where an immediate effect is desired. It is hardy, of good form, and grows rapidly. The European species (*Tilia Europœa*), is of smaller size and has smaller, darker foliage than the other.

The Birch: The lightness, grace and delicacy of the birches commend them to the attention of every planter. The Cut-leaved Weeping Birch (*Betula Alba* var.) shown on the title page, is a general favorite wherever planted. The American species start into leaf very early in the spring and many of them will grow under the most untoward circumstances. The best are the Black or Cherry Birch (*Betula lenta*), the Yellow (*B. lutea*), and the Gray (*B. populifolia*).

The Poplars: The poplars are all rapid growers and are valuable for giving an immediate effect—some species often making a growth of six feet in a single year. All are short lived, however, and their greatest beauty is attained while young.

The Oak: While oaks which have attained large size are among the most attractive of trees, the finest species are late in leaf and of slow growth. The most valuable native species are

the White Oak, *Quercus alba,* and the Scarlet Oak, *Quercus coccinea.*

THE MOST VALUABLE SHRUBS.

The number of flowering shrubs which will thrive in Maine is comparatively limited. The following have proved satisfactory on the grounds of the University for several years. It is worthy of note that the shrubs which are the most commonly known, and that may be obtained the cheapest, are generally the best, or have the greatest number of good qualities.

The Spiræa: Of the spiræas, the best are *S. Thunbergii* and *S. Van Houttei.* The first has narrow yellowish green leaves and blossoms very early in the spring, before the leaves are fully out. The other blooms about the middle of June and is specially valuable. The flowers are white and appear in great profusion. *S. Reevesii* is similar to the Van Houttei, but a little earlier. *S. Bumalda* is one of the best pink varieties. It commences to bloom about the middle of June and continues all summer. *S. Prunifolia,* "Bridal Wreath," is another very good white variety; one of the earliest.

The Lilac: This old favorite is again popular. Some of the newer named varieties which are specially good are the following: *Syringa vulgaris,* the true old garden lilac, has varied greatly under cultivation and there are now more than twenty-five named varieties of this species. Some of the best of these are Charles X, Louis Spath, Princess Marie and Senator Volland, among the purples; and Marie Legraye, and Dr. Stockhardt among the whites. *Syringa Persica,* the Persian lilac, has loose graceful heads of flowers in great profusion. The habit of the plant, as well as of the flower cluster, is more open and graceful than that of the common lilac. The white form is specially valuable. *Syringa Josikœa* is a very distinct species with large, shining foliage and dark, lilac colored flowers. It blooms after many others are out of flower. *Syringa Rothmagensis* is similar in habit to the Persian lilac, but the flowers are dark, reddish purple. It is said to be a cross between *Syringa vulgaris* and *Syringa Persica.*

The Viburnum: Besides the old fashioned Snowball, *Viburnum opulus,* var. *sterilis,* which is always popular and needs no description, the best are: *Viburnum Nepalense,* which is a

strong grower, though of compact form, and having large thick leaves; *Viburnum prunifolium,* "Black Haw," a large growing shrub, bearing flat clusters of white flowers early in June, followed by black fruit in the fall; also the Maple Leaved Viburnum (*V. acerifolium*), a low growing shrub, bearing flat heads of white flowers about the middle of June. The last is excellent for growing in masses, especially in shady places. The Japanese snowball (*Viburnum plicatum*) is one of the best of shrubs. Of upright bushy growth, firm dark foliage, and bearing its white flowers in great profusion, it well deserves a place in every collection. It is in many ways much superior to the old snowball, one special point in its favor being its freedom from lice.

The Mock Orange: The mock orange or "Syringa" (*Philadelphus*) is one of the finest of shrubs, whether grown singly or in masses. It is hardy, early in leaf, and graceful in habit. *Philadelphus coronarius* is the one most commonly grown, and it has fragrant orange-like flowers, which appear late in June in this locality. *P. Zeyheri* is more vigorous and has larger, but less fragrant and less abundant flowers than the preceding. Gordon's Syringa, *P. Gordonii,* somewhat smaller and more slender than the others, blooms a month later but its flowers, though large, are scentless.

Some other shrubs which have proved valuable at the University are: Bladder Senna (*Colutea*), Flowering Currant (*Ribes aureum* and *R. Gordonii*), Japanese rose (*Rosa rugosa*), Golden Elder, (*Sambucus canadensis aurea*), Thimble Berry (*Rubus odoratus*), Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera Tartarica*), Weigela (*Diervilla florida*), White Fringe (*Chionanthus Virginica*), and the Hydrangeas (*H. paniculata grandiflora* and *H. vestita*).

TRIED AND FOUND WANTING, OR OF DOUBTFUL VALUE.

Among the trees and shrubs which thus far have proved unsatisfactory in Eastern Maine, the following may be mentioned: Green ash (*Fraxinus viridis*); the Magnolias, except *Magnolia Soulangeana;* the Japanese chestnuts; Tamarisk (*Tamarix Africana (?);* Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*); Deutzia (*Deutzia scabra* and *D. gracilis*); Golden Bell (*Forsythia*); Burning Bush (*Rhus cotinus*).

A FEW HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS.

The number of herbaceous perennials commonly grown in this State is comparatively limited; some of the most valuable, however, are the peony, iris, lily-of-the-valley, "Bleeding Heart" (*Dicentra*), and foxglove.

The peony, *Pœonia officinalis*, is specially valuable when planted in masses. It gives a profusion of bloom about the middle of June, and is perfectly hardy. It is valuable alike for landscape effects and for cut flowers. There are more than a hundred named varieties, but for ordinary purposes unnamed sorts answer very well and are much less expensive.

For a short time in early June, before the peonies appear, the varieties of *Iris Kœmpferi* are specially valuable. Like the peony, and most other herbaceous perennials, this should be planted in September.

Among the plants which bloom very early in the spring, "Christmas Rose" (*Helleborus niger*), and "Bleeding Heart" (*Dicentra*), should not be forgotten. Feverfew or Pyrethrum, (*Chrysanthemum Parthenium,*) is another plant that should be in every collection. Its pure white double flowers, contrasting with the delicately cut foliage, add much to the border. The tall Pyrethrum, (*Chrysanthemum uliginosum* or *Pyrethrum uliginosum*), which blooms in September, is also a valuable plant. It grows about three or four feet high and its large daisy-like flowers are very conspicuous. It is a vigorous grower and may readily be propagated by dividing the clump.

The gas plant (*Fraxinella*) should not be omitted from the list of useful perennials. The handsome ash-like foliage is attractive at all seasons. Golden Columbine, (*Aquilegia Chrysantha,*) is one of the most valuable yellow flowering plants for summer. The double sunflower, (*Helianthus Multiflorus,*) which grows about three or four feet high, is also valuable. Later in the season the Japanese anemones with their single dahlia-like flowers are valuable. In this connection the dahlia may also be mentioned. Though the roots must be taken up each year, this plant is justly popular. Lily-of-the-valley, foxglove, phlox, larkspur, and some other old garden favorites, easy of culture and prolific of bloom have not been mentioned, nor has anything been said of the numerous species and varieties of lilies. These, however, may well be included in every collection.